

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

scr B3 1. A method for blocking the development or treating or reducing the severity or effects of an immunological disorder in an animal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a TWEAK blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 2. A method for inhibiting an immune response in an animal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a TWEAK blocking agent and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

15 3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of:

- 20 (a) an antibody directed against the TWEAK ligand;
(b) an antibody directed against the TWEAK receptor;
(c) an agent that modifies the binding of the TWEAK ligand to the receptor;
(d) an agent that modifies the cell surface receptor clustering; and
(e) an agent that can interrupt the intra cellular signaling of the TWEAK receptor.

scr B4 4. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the animal is mammalian.

25 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the mammal is human.

6. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a soluble TWEAK receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface TWEAK ligand.

30 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the soluble TWEAK receptor comprises a human immunoglobulin IgG domain.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the human immunoglobulin IgG domain comprises regions responsible for specific antigen binding.

35 9. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the antibody directed against the TWEAK receptor comprises a monoclonal antibody.

10. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against the TWEAK surface ligand.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the
5 TWEAK ligand.

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12. The method according to claim 2, wherein the immune response is a Th1 cell-mediated
immune response.

10 13. The method according to claim 2, wherein the immune response is a Th2 cell-mediated
immune response.

14. The method according to claim 2, wherein the immune response includes both a Th1 and a
Th2 cell-mediated immune response.

15 15. The method according to claim 2, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a
monoclonal antibody directed against the TWEAK receptor.

20 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a TWEAK
blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent is selected
from the group consisting of:

- 25 (a) an antibody directed against the TWEAK ligand;
(b) an antibody directed against the TWEAK receptor;
(c) an agent that modifies the binding of the TWEAK ligand to the receptor;
(d) an agent that modifies the cell surface receptor clustering; and
(e) an agent that can interrupt the intracellular signaling of the TWEAK receptor

30 18. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a
soluble TWEAK receptor having a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface TWEAK
ligand.

35 19. The composition according to claim 18, wherein the soluble TWEAK receptor comprises a
human immunoglobulin IgG domain into which regions responsible for specific antigen binding have been
inserted.

20. The composition of claim 16, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a
monoclonal antibody directed against the TWEAK receptor.

21. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the TWEAK blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against the TWEAK surface ligand.

5 22. The composition according to claim 21, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the TWEAK ligand.

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